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October 1, 2020

Via FedEx and ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Submission of Confidential Information in WC Docket Nos 10-90;
14-58; 07-135; CC Docket No. 01-92*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

TDS Telecommunications LLC (“TDS Telecom” or “the Company”) hereby submits this request for confidential treatment in connection with the attached Petition for Waiver (“Petition”) in the above captioned dockets. Because the Petition contains confidential information, a public version is being filed electronically via ECFS and the confidential version is being mailed to the Commission. TDS Telecom respectfully requests that, pursuant to Section 0.459 of the Commission’s rules,¹ the Commission withhold from public inspection, and grant confidential treatment to, the portions of the attached Petition marked CONFIDENTIAL.

The information marked as CONFIDENTIAL contains commercial and financial information that falls within Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA),² because it is “of a kind that would not customarily be released to the public;” therefore, this information is “confidential” under Exemption 4 of FOIA.³ Additionally, TDS Telecom would suffer substantial competitive harm if the information marked CONFIDENTIAL were disclosed.⁴

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459.

² 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4).

³ See *Critical Mass Energy Project v. NRC*, 975 F.2d 871, 879 (D.C. Cir. 1992).

⁴ See *National Parks and Conservation Ass’n v. Morton*, 498 F.2d 765 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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In support of this request, and pursuant to Section 0.459(b) of the Commission's rules,⁵ TDS Telecom hereby states as follows:

1. Identification of the specific information for which confidential treatment is sought

TDS Telecom seeks confidential treatment of the information marked CONFIDENTIAL in the attached Petition.

2. Identification of the Commission proceeding in which the information was submitted or a description of the circumstances giving rise to the submission

TDS Telecom is submitting the Petition, including the information marked CONFIDENTIAL, in support of a request for waiver of certain of the Commission's rules and guidance in the above-captioned dockets.

3. Explanation of the degree to which the information is commercial or financial, or contains a trade secret or is privileged

The information marked CONFIDENTIAL contains proprietary financial and commercial information regarding funding sources of TDS Telecom and strategies for deployment of its services.

4. Explanation of the degree to which the information concerns a service that is subject to competition

The information marked CONFIDENTIAL contains sensitive and proprietary information, as well as operational information that TDS Telecom's competitors and others could use to disadvantage TDS Telecom. Disclosure of the information marked CONFIDENTIAL therefore would cause substantial competitive harm.

5. Explanation of how disclosure of the information could result in substantial competitive harm

Competitors could use the information marked CONFIDENTIAL to cause substantial competitive harm by using it to gain access to sensitive and proprietary information regarding the operation of TDS Telecom's business, which is information not ordinarily disclosed to the public.

6. Identification of any measures taken by the submitting party to prevent unauthorized disclosure

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b).

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TDS Telecom has not publicly disclosed the information marked CONFIDENTIAL in the attached Petition.

7. Identification of whether the information is available to the public and the extent of any previous disclosure of the information to third parties

TDS Telecom has not publicly disclosed the information marked CONFIDENTIAL. Certain of the information marked CONFIDENTIAL has been submitted to USAC's High Cost Universal Broadband portal (the "HUBB"), but it has not been publicly disseminated.

8. Justification of the period during which the submitting party asserts that material should not be available for public disclosure

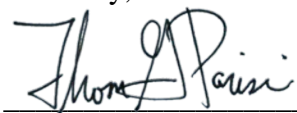
TDS Telecom requests that the information marked CONFIDENTIAL be treated as confidential for a period of ten years. This period is necessary due to the sensitive nature of the information that would cause immediate and future competitive harms.

9. Any other information that the party seeking confidential treatment believes may be useful in assessing whether its request for confidentiality should be granted

The information for which TDS Telecom seeks confidential treatment is necessary to fully explain to the Commission the circumstances giving rise to the Petition, but public disclosure of the information would harm the Company.

Please direct any questions regarding this filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. DelNero
Thomas G. Parisi
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One CityCenter
850 Tenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

*Counsel for TDS
Telecommunications LLC*

Enc.

Public Version

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| In the Matter of |) | |
| |) | |
| Connect America Fund |) | WC Docket No. 10-90 |
| |) | |
| ETC Annual Reports and Certifications |) | WC Docket No. 14-58 |
| |) | |
| Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers |) | WC Docket No. 07-135 |
| |) | |
| Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime |) | CC Docket No. 01-92 |

PETITION FOR WAIVER OF TDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS LLC

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October 1, 2020

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SUMMARY OF WAIVER REQUEST

TDS Telecommunications LLC (“TDS Telecom” or “the Company”) respectfully requests that to the extent necessary, the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) partially waive certain reporting deadlines associated with the buildout requirements tied to receipt of A-CAM funding. As explained in the Petition, TDS Telecom has made qualifying broadband service available to a substantial number of locations throughout its 25 state service area. A subset of these locations were inadvertently omitted from the otherwise timely-filed updates to the HUBB. The reasons for this underreporting relate to substantial complexities faced by the Company early on in setting up reporting processes, which were exacerbated due to necessary reliance on legacy systems across the Company’s vast, and geographically dispersed, service area.

Based on the Commission’s and USAC’s interpretation of the A-CAM reporting requirements, TDS Telecom has come to understand that a waiver may be required in order to enable the Company to certify these additional locations in the HUBB. Without the ability to certify that the Company has made service available to this additional, significant number of locations, TDS Telecom will be subjected to penalties that are meant to apply to companies that are not meeting their buildout requirements. As TDS Telecom has complied with the purpose of the Commission’s rules, and has indeed made broadband available to the requisite number of locations, the Company respectfully submits that grant of the partial Petition for Waiver would serve the public interest.

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

| | | |
|--|---|----------------------|
| In the Matter of |) | |
| |) | |
| Connect America Fund |) | WC Docket No. 10-90 |
| |) | |
| ETC Annual Reports and Certifications |) | WC Docket No. 14-58 |
| |) | |
| Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for |) | WC Docket No. 07-135 |
| Local Exchange Carriers |) | |
| |) | |
| Developing a Unified Intercarrier |) | CC Docket No. 01-92 |
| Compensation Regime |) | |

PETITION FOR WAIVER OF TDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS LLC

Pursuant to Section 1.3 of the Federal Communications Commission’s (“Commission”) Rules,¹ TDS Telecommunications LLC (“TDS Telecom” or “the Company”) respectfully requests that to the extent necessary, the Commission partially waive certain reporting deadlines of Section 54.316 of its rules as interpreted in the *HUBB Reporting Public Notice*,² such that all qualifying locations to which the Company has made broadband service available will be counted in assessing TDS Telecom’s compliance with its buildout milestones. Assessing TDS

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 1.3.

² See 47 C.F.R. § 54.316; *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance to Carriers Receiving Connect America Fund Support Regarding Their Broadband Location Reporting Obligations*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Public Notice, 31 FCC Rcd 12900, 12906 (“By March 1, 2017, and by March 1 in subsequent years, recipients of CAF A-CAM support must file in the HUBB all new qualifying locations to which they made broadband service available in each prior calendar year. By March 1, 2019, recipients of CAF A-CAM support must file all qualifying locations to which they made broadband service available prior to January 1, 2016, namely, pre-existing locations.”) (*HUBB Reporting Public Notice*); see also *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Report and Order, Order and Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 31 FCC Rcd 3087, 3165-66, para. 213 (*2016 Rate of Return Reform Order*).

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Telecom's deployment progress based on the actual number of locations where the Company has made broadband service available supports the public interest.

To be clear, by this Petition the Company does not seek waiver of any deployment milestone. TDS Telecom also did not overlook its obligation to file reports; it routinely uploaded and certified geocoded location data in the HUBB prior to each applicable deadline. However, the Company has determined that service is in fact available to certain additional locations not reported in those filings. These issues stem from the necessarily complicated task of refocusing complex systems and building new processes within them to comply with new reporting requirements across a large, multi-state footprint for a new support program (A-CAM). TDS Telecom experienced unique difficulties in early reporting, due to necessary reliance on legacy systems across a 25-state territory that precludes the Company from relying on turnkey vendor solutions available to smaller A-CAM recipients.

The Commission's rules may be waived for good cause shown,³ and the Commission may exercise its discretion to waive a rule where the particular facts make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest.⁴ The Commission may take into account considerations of hardship, equity, or more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis.⁵ Waiver of the Commission's rules is appropriate where (i) special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rule, and (ii) such deviation will serve the public interest.⁶

³ 47 C.F.R. §1.3.

⁴ *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990).

⁵ *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969); *Northeast Cellular*, 897 F.2d at 1166.

⁶ *NetworkIP, LLC v. FCC*, 548 F.3d 116, 125-28 (D.C. Cir. 2008), *Northeast Cellular*, 897 F.2d at 1166.

The Commission's goals of encouraging universal service would be frustrated by strict enforcement of the reporting requirements in this case because the Commission would reduce support for a provider for the appearance of failing to meet its buildout obligations due to unique systems and process challenges it faced across its geographically dispersed, 25-state territory. TDS Telecom respectfully seeks the opportunity to be judged based on a full view of the extent of deployment and to give the Commission a more accurate picture of rural broadband availability.

I. TDS Telecom Has Diligently Built Out Service, but Special Circumstances Caused Inadvertent Underreporting in the Company's HUBB Submissions.

TDS Telecom has made substantial progress in bringing broadband meeting the Commission's specified service requirements throughout the 25 states it serves.⁷ The Company has completed **[[BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]]** **[[END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]]** projects offering 10/1 Mbps or faster service to over **[[BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]]** **[[END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]]** A-CAM Eligible locations in TDS Telecom's markets (not including the locations that are the subject of this waiver). While working on these substantial projects and satisfying reporting obligations, the Company also conducted an internal review of its reporting processes. Through this review, TDS Telecom discovered it had inadvertently underreported locations in the early years of implementing these reporting requirements. Given the Bureau's guidance on when locations must be reported, the Company understands that a waiver likely is necessary to allow the Company to correct its deployment data, to confirm available service addressability, to certify the locations at issue in this petition, and to avoid large penalties.

⁷ The Company has experienced pandemic-related roadblocks to deployment in California, not relevant to this waiver request, and which are described in a separate petition for waiver.

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To address the issues outlined below that resulted in underreporting of served locations in the HUBB, TDS Telecom, to the extent necessary, seeks a waiver of the specific timing aspect of the Commission's reporting requirements contained in Section 54.316 of its rules as interpreted by the guidance in the *HUBB Reporting Public Notice*, to enable the Company to report and certify certain locations to which broadband is available by the end of calendar year 2019 but inadvertently omitted from HUBB reporting. Grant of the waiver will enable TDS Telecom to be judged on the basis of its actual broadband deployment and not just a subset of the locations to which broadband service has been made available.

A. TDS Telecom is a Unique Entity in the A-CAM Program that Experiences More Complex Challenges in Tracking and Reporting Deployment than Other Carriers.

As the largest A-CAM carrier in the country, TDS Telecom manages a substantial collection of buildout and reporting obligations across the 25 states where it offers service. Compared to smaller carriers, TDS Telecom's task to monitor and gather data on the status of deployment across this vast footprint is necessarily more complicated. TDS Telecom is a company formed in 1969 that has acquired and managed over 109 ILEC operating companies serving many different areas, with a complex architecture of multiple legacy information systems used by many different teams including those in field services, in central network operations, and teams assisting and supporting customers. Given the complexities of its diverse operating companies, dispersed geographical footprint, and unique systems environment, the Company is differently situated from many smaller providers that have been able to rely on turn-key third-party solutions to implement Commission reporting processes.

In the past, the Commission has provided more flexibility when it comes to new reporting requirements, particularly closer in time to when companies must begin reporting. For example, the Bureau granted waivers of HUBB filing deadlines where "[t]he Petitioners faced the unique

situation of having both new reporting requirements and a new method through which to report the geocoded location information data.”⁸ These are the same types of issues experienced by TDS Telecom. The fact that the consequences of the Company’s reporting challenges are only being felt now that the first service milestone is approaching does not detract from the fact that these issues relate back to the outset of the new reporting obligations. The Company has been working to improve its processes for identifying and reporting locations since its first HUBB report and has recently implemented strong controls to improve these processes. These improvements have and will ensure that new issues are not introduced and have allowed the Company to identify locations that were inadvertently excluded so it may correct its filings.

B. Despite Early Issues Specific to its Unique Tracking and Reporting Processes, TDS Telecom has Improved its Custom Processes Over Time.

As TDS Telecom worked to implement new reporting processes for A-CAM, the complexities faced as such a large and unique company resulted in inadvertent instances of underreporting of locations to which it has made broadband available. A lack of reporting system maturity created a situation in which despite having built broadband to required locations, absent a waiver, the Company may not receive credit for making broadband available and could be subject to large penalties. These penalties were designed to create strong financial incentives for providers to meet their deployment obligations, as the Commission’s overarching goal is for consumers to be served. Subjecting TDS Telecom to these reporting and monetary penalties when broadband in fact is available will serve no purpose and is not in the public interest.

The Company has determined that in some cases, its reporting process did not identify all locations to which qualifying broadband service has been deployed. These buildouts occurred in

⁸ *Petitions for Waiver of Universal Service High-Cost Filing Deadlines et al.*, WC Docket No. 08-71 et al., Order, 34 FCC Rcd 11139, 11144, para. 14 (WCB Dec. 2, 2019).

or prior to 2019, and while the Company consistently submitted location information to the HUBB, some locations were inadvertently omitted because the Company's A-CAM reporting processes were in their infancy.

The Company accepted A-CAM funding in January 2017 and prepared for its first HUBB report in early 2018. In order to identify locations and complete HUBB reporting, it was necessary to build new processes using data from multiple legacy information systems: service addressability, provisioning systems, and geolocators. Notably, all of these systems originally were implemented for uses that did not require the high degree of location accuracy required in A-CAM reporting. For example, the service addressability system was designed long before the advent of A-CAM to allow customer care representatives to make a "first pass" determination of whether a customer resides in an area where broadband is available. The actual availability of the service to the customer often would be confirmed by technicians in the field. The capability to track and report on location changes was not required prior to A-CAM reporting. TDS Telecom has since learned through experience that relying on this type of system in the A-CAM context poses substantial challenges.

One illustration of an outcome directly related to the challenges of building new processes to leverage legacy systems, is that some locations to which the Company deployed broadband using a Gigabyte Passive Optical Network ("GPON") were inadvertently excluded from HUBB reporting because a field within TDS Telecom's service addressability system was not populated correctly. When data was extracted from systems and joined into a reporting file, a key field was blank. Because that field was blank, GPON records were not appropriately reported in the HUBB. Broadband service is, in fact, available to these locations, according to the Commission's rules, but these locations are not represented in the HUBB.

The confluence of these types of issues resulted in the data in the HUBB underrepresenting the extent of TDS Telecom's broadband deployment. The Company thus seeks the instant waiver to correct the record and have the Commission judge compliance with the deployment obligations on the basis of all locations to which broadband is available.

II. Grant of the Requested Waiver Will Serve the Public Interest by Upholding the Purpose of the Reporting Requirements and Ensuring the Commission Has Accurate Broadband Deployment Data.

As explained above, TDS Telecom inadvertently omitted locations when initially navigating new reporting obligations for a new program. However, the Company's procedures have evolved and matured to more accurately report served locations. Although the negative consequences of underreporting certain served locations are imminent because the first service milestone is approaching, these consequences stem from issues experienced early in the reporting process. Grant of the requested waiver will in no way harm consumers, and it will improve the Commission's understanding of the extent of broadband deployment in rural areas.

A. Allowing TDS Telecom to Supplement its Submitted Data will Advance the Purpose of the Commission's Rules.

The reporting rules ensure accountability and compliance with the important deployment obligations that attach when providers decide to receive A-CAM funding. TDS takes seriously these obligations and believes it is incumbent upon the Company to accurately report all locations where A-CAM support has been used to improve broadband capabilities and availability. Without reporting on progress, the Commission would have no meaningful method to verify that providers are using high cost support to provide broadband to unserved and underserved locations. However, strict application of the reporting rules and guidance barring TDS Telecom from certifying to a corrected record would only serve to penalize the company

for the appearance of non-compliance with its deployment obligations, despite having met the Commission's requirements in full.

The Commission has long held that “an accountability framework is ‘critical to ensure appropriate use of high-cost support and to allow the Commission to determine whether it is achieving its goals efficiently and effectively.’”⁹ TDS Telecom agrees. Denying the requested waiver would do harm to this important tenet. TDS Telecom has appropriately built out locations using its support, and the reporting requirements are not intended to reduce the support levels for carriers who are using funds for their intended purposes, but that have inadvertently underreported their successes. Indeed, this waiver does not seek to reduce buildout requirements whatsoever; instead, it asks for the opportunity to have the Company's compliance with these requirements evaluated based on a full picture of the progress the Company has achieved.

In publishing the *HUBB Reporting Public Notice*, the Bureau referred back to the *2016 Rate of Return Reform Order*, which instituted the requirement for reporting geocodes in the HUBB so the Commission could “determine if universal service funds are being used for their intended purposes”¹⁰ and to track buildout progress towards milestones.¹¹ The Commission also noted that the reporting requirements “will enable the Commission and USAC to analyze the data provided by carriers and determine how high-cost support is being used to ‘improve broadband availability, service quality, and capacity at the smallest geographic area possible.’”¹²

⁹ *2016 Rate of Return Reform Order* at 3163, para. 207 (citing *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17850, para. 573).

¹⁰ *2016 Rate of Return Reform Order* at 3164, para. 209.

¹¹ *Id.* at 3166, para. 215.

¹² *2016 Rate of Return Reform Order* at 3164, para. 209 (citing Government Accountability Office, *FCC Should Improve the Accountability and Transparency of High-Cost Program Funding*, GAO 14-587 (July 2014), available at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/664939.pdf>).

If the Company is prevented from correcting inadvertent errors it has discovered and brought to the Commission's attention, the important goals expressed by the Commission, USAC, and the GAO will be frustrated by penalizing TDS Telecom based on inaccurate data that the Company is ready and willing to ameliorate.

The first milestone applicable to TDS Telecom is approaching, and it is paramount that the Company be judged accurately, so that rural areas continue to receive increased service offerings instead of the Company's efforts being inhibited because of penalties based on incomplete data. The goal of A-CAM is deployment, and the reporting obligations are a means to ensure deployment does occur. Thus, grant of the waiver so TDS Telecom can accurately reflect its compliance with the milestone will promote, rather than frustrate, an understanding of TDS Telecom's progress and its use of A-CAM funding for the intended purpose.

It also bears emphasis that the Company has put in place numerous mechanisms to prevent recurrence of the reporting problems that led to the need for this waiver request. Specifically, the Company built a process to monitor location data in its systems, supporting HUBB reporting against network builds and upgrade records. The process tracks locations throughout their lifecycle: in build/upgrade, completed and ready for reporting, and HUBB reported. Monitoring is frequent and allows the Company to quickly identify issues and rapidly investigate them so they are resolved promptly.

B. Accurate and Complete Reporting Should be Encouraged by the Commission.

As explained above, TDS Telecom has become aware that broadband service is being offered to more locations than reported in the Company's HUBB records, so the Company seeks to update its records to reflect this important service availability information. The Company understands and takes seriously its reporting obligations, having routinely made required updates to the HUBB. TDS Telecom therefore has complied with the intent of the rule, and grant of a

waiver here would further the overarching objective to monitor progress towards deployment milestones.

The Commission has acknowledged that “[c]arriers also have a duty to correct or amend submitted information if they have reason to believe, either through their own investigation or upon notice from USAC, that the data is inaccurate, incomplete, or contains data errors or anomalies.”¹³ Here, TDS Telecom has identified instances of underreporting and seeks the opportunity to correct the record so that its compliance with the buildout obligations is judged based on all of its work.

C. TDS Telecom Has Consistently Filed Required Reports, so Strict Enforcement of the Rules in this Case Will Not Achieve the Commission’s Goals of Accountability.

TDS Telecom has timely completed HUBB filings for each of the 25 states where it receives A-CAM support. The Company acknowledges the importance of these requirements in assessing compliance of carriers who receive high cost funds. TDS Telecom now merely seeks to *supplement* these filings with additional locations and certify those supplemental locations so its compliance with interim milestones can be fairly judged. Thus, this request does not seek to reduce TDS Telecom’s deployment obligations. Instead it is a request to update the information contained in its timely-filed submissions so it may be fairly assessed on its deployment progress.

Because the requested waiver would promote the intent of the Commission’s reporting rules, strict enforcement in this case would contravene the public interest.

¹³ *HUBB Reporting Public Notice* at 12910.

III. Grant of the Requested Waiver Would Serve the Public Interest by Facilitating TDS Telecom's Efforts to Continue Deploying Broadband to Unserved and Underserved Americans.

In the absence of the requested waiver, there are two primary ways in which TDS Telecom will be penalized.

First, absent the waiver, the Company will be unable to demonstrate it has met the 40% service milestone for New Hampshire, despite having actually made service available to a meaningfully higher percentage of qualified locations. The service offerings in New Hampshire even include gigabit services. Nevertheless, without the requested waiver, the data in the HUBB will not reflect the true broadband availability in New Hampshire. In fact, absent a waiver, instead of demonstrating more deployment than required at this point, the Company will appear to have fallen short of the milestone by **[[BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]]** **[[END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]]**, which will result in a **[[BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]]** **[[END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]]** penalty of over **[[BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]]** **[[END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]]** per month. The Commission adopted these penalties to create a significant financial incentive for companies to cure their non-compliance. In this case, however, absent a waiver, TDS Telecom would face these penalties for the appearance of not deploying broadband.

Second, while the reporting challenges will not result in any penalties related to the imminent 40% milestone in states outside of New Hampshire, they will impede the Company's ability to reach subsequent milestones. The situation is different in these other states because data already in the HUBB, when combined with data to be reported for calendar year 2020, is sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the 40% milestone. However, if the waiver is not granted, additional served locations that should have been reported, but were inadvertently

excluded, will not be counted toward future milestones where they will be necessary to meet the Company's obligations. In short, early difficulties with the reporting requirements, which have since been resolved, would force the Company to endure financial penalties despite meeting the service obligations tied to A-CAM support.

These penalties will unnecessarily deprive the Company of resources to continue to connect more people and businesses to broadband and to continue to improve its data collection capabilities. This would contradict the Commission's goals to "spur new broadband deployment in rural areas, which will help close the digital divide."¹⁴

The purpose of A-CAM support is to enable providers to offer broadband service to a defined number of locations on a defined timetable. The reporting requirements are a method of ensuring that providers take seriously their buildout requirements and creating meaningful financial incentives for providers to meet these obligations and provide critical services. Inadvertent reporting errors, as described in this Petition, should not be the basis for penalizing the Company, particularly where these errors in fact under- and not over-reported the extent of deployment. Over-reporting would directly conflict with the accountability the Commission's rules seek to enforce; whereas, underreporting and supplementing of data does not present the same issues. As discussed above, strict enforcement of the rules here would interfere with the Commission's goals by penalizing a successful provider and inhibiting its ability to deploy broadband to even more locations.

¹⁴ *2016 Rate of Return Reform Order* at 3096, para. 20.

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CONCLUSION

TDS Telecom is committed to meeting its deployment obligations and providing quality service to help close the digital divide. TDS has long been a champion for rural broadband expansion and has led by example, connecting thousands of customers with enhanced broadband services over the years. The purpose of this waiver is to enable the Company's progress to be assessed against a full picture of its deployment and to ensure the Commission has the accurate data it needs to assess the extent of broadband availability in rural areas. Because of the special circumstances that led to underreporting of locations where broadband has been made available, providing the requested relief would promote the public interest and advance the purpose and intent of the Commission's rules and guidance. Accordingly, TDS Telecom respectfully requests grant of this waiver request.

TDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS LLC

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*Counsel for TDS Telecommunications
LLC*

October 1, 2020

DECLARATION OF DALLAS W. HOLMES

The undersigned, Dallas W. Holmes, hereby declares as follows:

1. I am Director - Data Architecture at TDS Telecommunications LLC (“TDS Telecom”).
2. I am authorized to make this Declaration on behalf of TDS Telecom.
3. The foregoing Petition for Waiver of TDS Telecommunications LLC (“Waiver Petition”) was prepared under my direction and supervision.
4. The contents of the Waiver Petition are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this 1st day of October, 2020.



Name: Dallas W. Holmes

Title: Director - Data Architecture